



COMMISSIONER
James R. Hine

August 16, 2004

BOARD MEMBERS

Jerry Kane
Chairman, Corpus Christi

Manson B. Johnson
Vice Chairman, Houston

Abigail Rios Barrera, M.D.
San Antonio

John A. Cuellar
Dallas

Terry Durkin Wilkinson
Midland

TO: All Medicaid-Certified Nursing Facilities

RE: Provider Letter # 04-25 - Implementation of New Case Mix Rules

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is providing a final notification to medicaid-certified nursing facilities regarding full implementation of new Case Mix Rules, which can be found in Title 1, Part 15, Subchapter C, §371.212 – 371.214 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC). Online access to the TAC is at: <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/tac/>. Full implementation of the new rules is effective August 2, 2004. Please refer to the attached HHSC letter for an explanation of the implementation.

For questions regarding the new case mix rules, please contact Sandra Brown, RN, BSN, Nursing Facility Utilization Review Manager, at (512) 482-3298.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Veronda L. Durden
Acting Assistant Deputy Commissioner
Long Term Care-Regulatory

VLD:mdv

Attachment



TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

ALBERT HAWKINS
EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER

July 15, 2004

To: All Nursing Facilities

Re: Implementation of new Case Mix Rules

The purpose of this letter is to provide a final notification to Nursing Facility (NF) Providers of the new Case Mix Rules in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 1, Part 15, Subchapter C, §371.212 – 371.214. These rules became effective May 12, 2004. **The Utilization Review (UR) Department will fully implement the new rules effective August 2, 2004.** Again, the major changes to the rules include:

- Missing documentation and signatures:
 - At the first visit after the new rules became effective, NRs will check for required signatures. If signatures are missing or 3652 CARE forms cannot be located, the assessment will be considered invalid and will be included in the overall error rate.
 - At the subsequent visit to facilities that had missing forms or signatures at the first visit, any required signatures missing on 3652 CARE forms or missing forms may result in a 212 TILE for those forms for the time they were invalid.
- New error rate requirements and outcomes:
 - For the first visit after the new rules became effective, if error rate is 25% or greater, facilities will receive a warning letter, and may have a return visit within the next seven months.
 - At the subsequent visit to facilities with an error rate greater than 25% at the first visit, if the error rate is 20% or higher, the facility may be placed on Vendor Hold.
- Changes to the following qualifying conditions or treatments: rehabilitation therapy, restorative nursing, dehydration, UTI, oxygen administration, respiratory administration, wound dressings, and eating training programs.

Additionally, the TILE certification will now be effective for a two-year period, and currently certified TILE nurses will be granted a one-year grace period from the effective date of the rule.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sandra Brown, RN, BSN, Nursing Facility Manager, at (512) 482-3298.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessica Allison".

Jessica Allison, RN, MSN
Utilization Review Manager
Office of Inspector General

JA/sb

C: Sandra Brown